

October 9, 2015

Dear Performer/Educator, Musician, Storyteller, Artist, Magician:

Although the summer of 2015 has just ended, the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is already planning for next year's Summer Reading Program! OLIS staff is currently coordinating the statewide Summer Reading Program's Performers Showcases.

You are receiving this message because you have either performed as a summer reading presenter in the past, you have been recommended to OLIS as a performer, you have contacted OLIS to inquire about the showcase, or you are listed on the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts Education Roster. We have tried to be comprehensive in reaching out to potential performers, but would appreciate your help if you think we've left someone out. Feel free to forward this email to other performers/educators or share this opportunity with your contacts. Many of you may be mentors to a new generation of storytellers, musicians, artists, etc., so you may want to reach out to them. OLIS appreciates your help in spreading the word.

Performer/Educator Applications are due at OLIS by Monday, November 9th at 5:00 PM

General information about Rhode Island's Summer Reading Program is available online at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/services/srp/about.php>

2016 Children's Summer Reading Program: Theme: *Wellness, Fitness, and Sports*; Slogan: "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read"

Each year, OLIS develops a list of approximately 8-12 performers/educators to provide programs to children ages pre-K to 10 in libraries during the summer reading program. Performers, or performing groups, present an average of 10-50 programs over the course of the summer. There is a wide range in the number of programs presented because, while the Children's Services Advisory Council (7 children's librarians) selects the final slate of presenters, each library books its own programs. OLIS serves as an organizer and convener, not a selector.

These performances are given in more than 70 public library buildings across the state and are booked from mid-June through mid-August. The fee paid for each 45-60 minute performance is \$160.00. The children's theme for the 2016 summer is "Wellness, Fitness, and Sports," and the slogan is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read."

In order to select the performers/educators, OLIS schedules an annual performer's showcase. This year's showcase will be at the Warwick Public Library located at 600 Sandy Lane Warwick, RI 02889. The showcase will take place on Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM (snow date: 1/14). Each performer or performing group prepares a 15 minute program which is performed in front of children's librarians from around the state. Each performer or group is encouraged to bring flyers or other promotional materials to distribute. Libraries also book shows during other times of the year so this is an opportunity to present your program to a large group of librarians.

Based on the applications received, 12 presenters will be selected to perform at the Showcase on January 7. In selecting educators to perform, first priority is given to people who have not been summer reading performers in the past. Second priority is given to presenters who have not been part of the summer reading program for at least 4 years. After these, we will include performers who have performed in the recent past, but would like to debut new material related to this year's theme.

We will also have a limited number of tables set up where performers/presenters can display their work. Some, especially visual artists, may prefer to present a program this way.

The Children's Services Advisory Council will consider all presenters who submit applications and descriptions. All presenters will be given equal consideration.

2016 Young Adult (Teen) Summer Reading Program: Theme: *Wellness, Fitness, and Sports*, Slogan: "Get in the Game: Read"

For the sixth year, OLIS is holding a statewide Teen Summer Reading Program Showcase. The Teen Summer Reading Program is geared for tweens and teens ages 10+. The Teen Summer Reading Program showcase is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2015 from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM at the William Hall Library located at 825 Broad St, Cranston, RI 02905. If you'd like to be considered for the Teen program, please fill out and return the Teen application as well by Monday, November 9th at 5:00 PM. The fee is the same per program, \$160.00, and libraries across the state will schedule programs. Librarians will schedule programs at their libraries all summer long, but these are generally smaller programs than the children's summer programs. Like the Children's Summer Reading Program, the Young Adult (Teen) presenters will be selected by the Young Adult Round Table, not by OLIS.

Block Booking Meeting for Children's and Teen Programs

Once the performers/educators for the summer have been selected and agree to perform, a block booking meeting is scheduled. This year's block booking meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at the Warwick Public Library from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (snow date: 2/23). Each performer lists days and or times when he/she is not available to make things run as smoothly as possible during the booking. After the meeting, each performer receives a copy of their schedule, so there is minimal work for performers in developing their own summer calendars.

What to Consider Before Applying:

Performing in the statewide summer reading program means accepting some common terms and conditions. If you have any questions or concerns about these terms, please feel free to contact me. However, the terms listed below are not negotiable.

1. Agreeing to present between 5 and 50 programs in RI public libraries between mid-June and mid-August as scheduled. The number of performances you will book at RI libraries cannot be predicted ahead of time; librarians book the presenters they would like to hire. OLIS organizes the booking meeting, but does not set up requirements for which programs (or how many) that the libraries book.
2. Accepting \$160.00 per program. There is no money available to pay for travel fees, preparation or supplies; the \$160 is all-inclusive.
3. Being able to tailor your program, or some elements of your program, to meet the summer reading theme of "Wellness, Fitness, and Sports" as featured in the Children's Program slogan: "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read" and the Teen/YA Program slogan: "Get in the Game: Read"
4. Being able to attend the Summer Reading Program booking meeting (if selected by the Children's Services Advisory Council or the Teen Services Advisory Council) on February 9 (snow date: 2/23). Each summer reading performer/educator will be responsible for filling his/her own calendar on that date.
5. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the attached application form(s) and return them to me by email to danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov, fax (401-574-9320) or mail by **Monday, November 9th at 5:00 PM**.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. If you'd like to be removed from this list, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Danielle Margarida
Youth Services Coordinator